

SUBJECT: Requiring the automatic issuance of natural disaster housing titles

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Calanni, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang, Tinderholt
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kay Roach, Town of Woodsboro, Refugio County Texas)
Against — None
On — Joe Garcia, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs-Manufactured Housing Division; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Clint Thompson, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles)

DIGEST: HB 2315 would establish guidelines for the automatic issuance of statements of ownership and titles for manufactured homes and travel trailers used as temporary housing during natural disasters or other declared emergencies.

Manufactured homes. The bill would require the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to adopt rules for the application and automatic issuance of statements of ownership of manufactured homes purchased by federal governmental agencies and used to provide temporary housing during emergencies. Such homes would be exempt from certain statutory provisions related to manufactured home statements of ownership and manufacturers' certificates.

Travel trailers. HB 2315 would require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a process to automatically issue a title to a government agency for a travel trailer used to provide temporary housing during emergencies. The automatic issuance of the title would apply to travel trailers owned or operated by the United States or transferred to a

state agency from the United States.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 2315 would close a gap in the titling process of temporary housing transferred from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) to state agencies by issuing titles and statements of ownership automatically. To accommodate those displaced by a disaster, FEMA purchases travel trailers for temporary housing units that are exempt from titling requirements under federal law. When FEMA transfers the trailers to state agencies, the state agencies must secure a valid title, which is difficult since there is no owner of record.

The bill also would provide proper titling for trailers used as temporary housing so the state could issue license plates that were exempt from fees.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.